

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTION

OF THE

SAINT LOUIS

Mercantile Library

ASSOCIATION.

ST. LOUIS:
PRINTED FOR THE ASSOCIATION.
1881.

ST. LOUIS:
Press of G. I. Jones and Company.

OFFICERS
OF THE
ST. LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
FOR THE YEAR 1881.

PRESIDENT:

THOMAS E. TUTT.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

ROBERT E. CARR.

SECRETARIES:

<i>Corresponding,</i>	<i>Recording,</i>
ROBERT B. WHITTEMORE.	WILLIAM L. SCOTT.

TREASURER:

JOHN R. LIONBERGER.

DIRECTORS:

GERARD B. ALLEN, EDWARD WALSH, JR.
ROBT. S. BROOKINGS, EDWARD J. GLASGOW, JR.
SAMUEL M. KENNARD, HENRY STANLEY,
PIERRE CHOUTEAU.

ACTUARY AND LIBRARIAN:

JOHN N. DYER.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS:

<i>First,</i>	<i>Second,</i>
W. H. H. ANDERSON.	JAMES A. YEATMAN.

DESK CLERKS:

PAUL J. CULLEN, CHAS. W. MENSE.

JANITOR:

JOHN CLEGG.

COMMITTEES FOR 1881.

WAYS AND MEANS:

ROBERT E. CARR, GERARD B. ALLEN,
ROBERT S. BROOKINGS.

LIBRARY AND READING-ROOM:

ROBERT S. BROOKINGS, ROBT. B. WHITTEMORE,
HENRY STANLEY.

BOOKS AND DONATIONS:

WILLIAM L. SCOTT, EDWARD WALSH, JR.,
ROBERT E. CARR, ROBERT B. WHITTEMORE,
 SAMUEL M. KENNARD.

LECTURES:

JOHN R. LIONBERGER, EDWARD J. GLASGOW, JR.,
PIERRE CHOUTEAU.

HALL AND BUILDING:

THOMAS E. TUTT, ROBERT E. CARR,
JOHN R. LIONBERGER.

FROM ITS ORGANIZATION.

[illegible]

TRUSTEES.

JAMES E. YEATMAN,

J. B. S. LEMOINE,

JOHN H. BEACH,

JOHN W. LUKE,

RICHARD M. SCRUGGS.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
ST. LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION,
JANUARY 11, 1881.

ROOMS OF MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, }
ST. LOUIS, January 11, 1881. }

The thirty-fifth annual meeting of the association, held this evening, was called to order by the vice-president, Mr. R. E. Carr, on whose motion Mr. R. M. Scruggs was called to the chair.

Messrs. W. C. Buchanan and John W. Munson were appointed secretaries.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

The committee on ways and means submitted the following report : —

ST. LOUIS, January 11, 1881.

The committee on ways and means beg leave to report that they have examined the books and accounts of the association, and find the same correct, and properly supported by vouchers for all disbursements made to date.

ROBT. E. CARR,
ROBT. S. BROOKINGS,
JOHN J. CANTWELL,
Committee.

On motion of Mr. W. A. Hargadine the report of the committee was received and adopted.

The treasurer, Mr. John R. Lionberger, read his report

of the receipts and expenditures for the year, showing the present financial condition of the association.

On motion of Mr. Charles Speck, the report was received and adopted.

In the absence — on account of illness — of the president, the vice-president, Mr. Robt. E. Carr, read the report of the board of direction, which, on motion of Mr. W. A. Hargadine, was received and adopted.

Mr. Alfred Carr offered the following resolution: —

Resolved, That the thanks of the association are tendered to the officers and members of the board for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their duty during the past year.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. John W. Luke offered the following: —

Resolved, That the incoming board are requested to use every effort to secure the erection of a new building for the use of the association, as recommended in the report of the president.

The resolution was unanimously adopted and the incoming board of direction instructed to make every exertion in its power to further the object of the resolution.

Mr. Geo. H. Loker offered the following resolution: —

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be furnished the daily papers of the city, and that six hundred copies of the same be printed in pamphlet form for circulation.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Robert P. Barry moved that the rooms be opened on Sundays.

No one seconding this resolution, it was, on motion of Mr. J. W. Luke, referred to the board of direction with power to act.

On motion of Mr. J. R. Lionberger, the meeting adjourned.

R. M. SCRUGGS,
Chairman.

W. C. BUCHANAN, }
J. W. MUNSON, } *Secretaries.*

TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

1880.

MERCANTILE LIBRARY, }
ST. LOUIS, January 11, 1881. }

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the receipts and disbursements for the year ending December 31, 1880. And, also, of the present financial condition of the association.

Your bonded debt has been reduced \$4,000 during the year, and we have placed \$3,305 to the credit of the sinking fund in United States 4 per cent. bonds.

Exhibit "A" — Cash account.

Exhibit "B" — Balance sheet.

Exhibit "C" — Profit and loss account.

EXHIBIT "A" — CASH ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURES.	
To Balance from last report . .	\$586 83	By Books	\$4,834 17
Membership account —		Books — British Patents . .	80 00 —
Initiation fees	\$476 00	Binding	987 94
Life-members	1,350 00	Bills payable	4,000 00
Proprietors	2,122 50	Hall expense	580 14
Clerks	2,709 75	Ante-room expenses	46 96
Beneficiaries	3,404 00 —	Fine arts	9 00
Rentals account —		Furniture	253 00
Hall stores	11,717 11	Insurance	1,660 00
Grand hall	3,339 00	Interest	2,100 00
Ante-rooms	417 00	Magazines	114 70
Organ	30 00 —	Newspapers	713 48
Sinking Fund account —		Organ repairs	22 00
Four U. S. 4 per cent. bonds	15,503 11	Periodicals	452 70
sold	4,000 00	Repairs	781 85
Premium and interest	256 25	Salaries	8,105 80
Miscellaneous account —		Expense account —	
Books lost and paid for . . .	7 50	Advertising	94 35
Catalogues sold	11 00	Fuel	181 55
Extra books issued	406 80	Furniture repairs	21 60
Fines for detention of books .	555 80	Lights	1,847 07
Magazines issued	96 20	Petty expenses	461 85
Old newspapers sold	70 92 —	Postage	56 95
		Printing	383 35
		Stationery	201 05
		Transportation	67 28
		Water supply	160 00 —
		Sinking Fund —	3,475 05
		Three U. S. 4 per cent. bonds	3,305 00
		Balance in treasury	34 87
	\$31,556 66		\$31,556 66

EXHIBIT "C" — PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

DEBIT.		CREDIT.	
To Binding	\$987 94	By Ante-rooms	\$370 04
British Patents	80 00	Beneficiaries	3,404 00
Expense account	3,475 05	Books donated	533 20
Insurance	1,660 00	Clerks	2,709 75
Interest	1,843 75	Extra books	406 80
Repairs	781 85	Fines	555 80
Magazines	18 50	Grand hall	2,758 86
Salaries	8,105 80	Hall stores	11,717 11
Balance — Net gain this year	9,852 01	Initiation fees	476 00
		Life members	1,350 00
		Organ rentals	8 00
		Proprietors	2,122 50
		Periodicals	392 84
			\$26,804 90

Very respectfully,

JOHN R. LIONBERGER,
Treasurer.

ANNUAL REPORT.

ROOMS OF THE ST. LOUIS MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, }
ST. LOUIS, January 11, 1881. }

To the Members of the St. Louis Mercantile Library Association.

GENTLEMEN: The annual report for the thirty-fifth year of your association, which is herewith submitted by the board of direction, shows a substantial and gratifying improvement in every department of the institution under their management.

There has been a steady increase in the membership of the library, and an increase in the revenue of the association. Although the receipts from the rent of the grand hall have been largely diminished, we have been able to increase the expenditures for books, binding, and periodicals, adding constantly to the number of volumes on the shelves; and the increase in the circulation and use of the books in the library has been unusual.

The following statement will show in detail the changes and gains under each head during the year:

MEMBERSHIP.

The list of members shows that during the year we have added 450 new members, and have lost from all causes 299, leaving a net gain of 151, and a total at the close of the year of 3,373 members.

The changes are as follows:—

January 1, 1880	3,222
Added during the year	450
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	3,672
Lost by death, removal, etc.	299
	<hr/>
	3,373
	<hr/>
Net gain	151

Classified as follows : —

Honorary members	20
Life members	689
Proprietors	485
Clerks	1,082
Beneficiaries	1,097
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	3,373

Of the above number we regret to report four hundred and ninety were delinquent in the payment of their dues on the 31st of December.

BOOKS.

The expenditure for books under the direction of the book committee has been larger than for any year in the history of the association ; and the library has been enriched by the addition of many costly works of permanent value.

The classification of the additions to the library will show, that while the current literature of the day has not been neglected, especial attention has been paid to the publications in the department of fine arts, and in the useful arts and sciences, history and biography.

The list of additions embraces nearly two thousand new volumes, among which the valuable books are so numerous as not to permit us to make any selection for special mention.

During the year the monthly bulletins which have been hung at the delivery desk have kept the members informed of the recent accessions.

The following is an exhibit in detail of the work and expenditures by the book committee : —

Volumes reported last year	53,283	
Added during the year 1880: —		
Purchased	1,979	
Periodicals bound	342	
Newspapers bound	4	
Presented	202	
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	2,527	
Deduct: —		
Volumes lost and paid for	5	
Volumes worn out and condemned	115	120
	<hr/>	
		2,407
		<hr/>
		55,690

The additions are classified as follows : —

	VOLUMES.
Voyages and Travels	121
History	206
Biography	278
Theology	72
Politics and Government	62
Commerce	26
Jurisprudence	28
Mental and Moral Philosophy	48
The Natural Sciences	86
Science of Medicine	65
Military Science	86
Useful Arts	121
Belles Lettres	481
Poetry	128
Art	131
Prose Fiction	588
	<hr/>
	2,527

The following statement shows the expenditures by the committee : —

BOOKS, ETC.

For the purchase of books	\$4,914 17
For the purchase of newspapers	713 48
For the purchase of periodicals	452 70
For binding and repairing books	987 94
	<hr/>
	\$7,068 29

CIRCULATION.

The increased interest taken in the library, and the increase of inducements it offers to members, are very faithfully reflected in the circulation, which shows a total number of volumes issued for use during the year 1880 of 133,148, against 119,997 volumes issued during 1879.

The comparative statement of the circulation shows a steady increase in the use of works in the higher departments of literature. The statement of books issued is as follows : —

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	1879.	1880.
History	22,773	25,011
Philosophy	25,370	27,236
Poetry and Art	15,908	21,283
Fiction	55,946	59,618
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	119,997	133,148

PERCENTAGE OF EACH CLASS.

	1879.	1880.
History	18.9	18.77
Philosophy	21.1	20.51
Poetry and Art	13.3	15.97
Fiction	46.7	44.75

GRAND HALL.

The grand hall has been painted and put in thorough repair, at an expense of \$593, without any compensating return; the receipts from hall rent being less than for any year in our history. The receipts from the organ have been practically nothing; and we are forced to conclude that the conditions which once made the hall a source of considerable revenue have almost wholly passed away.

BUILDING.

The building has been kept in good repair, and the stores have been steadily rented to solvent tenants. The small size and want of light of the stores renders them yearly less suited to the neighborhood, and less profitable in proportion to the valuable space they occupy.

The diminished revenue from the grand hall, and the comparatively small rents of the stores, furnish a very strong inducement to undertake the improvement in the building which has long been needed. It would be a neglect of a pressing and urgent duty if the board of direction failed to call the attention of the members to the important question of a library building.

The whole welfare of the association is involved in this question, and the demand for better accommodations has become imperative.

While we have the most central and desirable location in the city, a membership of which we are justly proud, and a collection of books and literary treasures of rare value, these advantages are marred and the objects of the association thwarted by the drawbacks and inconveniences of the present building, which is in every way unfitted for its purposes.

The discomfort to the members and patrons of the library and the inadequate facilities for the storage and use of the books would alone justify a change; but there are graver reasons which we cannot longer neglect. The frequent fires in the neighborhood are a warning we cannot fail to heed, and ordinary care for the safety of our property demands a fire-proof building, one more in accord with the demands of modern times. We rely with confidence on the position your association has held for thirty-five years, and on its identification with the commercial, industrial and financial interest of the business men of this great city, to keep it in the front line of the city's growth. It rests with the members of this association to say whether their library shall continue to struggle against the drawbacks which are now crippling its usefulness, and threatening its future, or whether they shall by a determined and successful effort place it forever beyond the reach of loss or danger, and upon a basis of permanent prosperity, by providing a commodious, well-lighted, adequate, and fire-proof building, one which will comply with every modern requirement of taste and convenience, and be worthy the reputation of your association, and of the treasures of which we are custodians. We ask you to act upon this matter, and to act at once.

INSURANCE.

Your property is insured in responsible companies for one hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the board of direction.

THOS. E. TUTT,
President.

APPENDIX.

GIFTS DURING THE YEAR 1880.

GIVERS.	VOLS.	PPHS.
Agler, J. F.	3	. . .
American Institute of Mining Engineers	3	. . .
American Pharmaceutical Association	1	. . .
Ammen, Dan'l . . . . .	. . .	1
Astor Library, New York . . . . .	. . .	1
Bagby, Gov.	6	. . .
Bandelier, A. F. . . . .	. . .	5
Bent, Silas	2	. . .
Billings, J. S.	1	. . .
Bodley, Wm. S.	1	. . .
Boston Public Library . . . . .	. . .	5
Brown, B. S.	1	. . .
Brown University, Providence . . . . .	. . .	1
Chase, H. S.	1	. . .
Chicago Public Library . . . . .	. . .	3
Chouteau, Charles P.	1	. . .
Cincinnati Public Library	3	. . .
Congress, Library of . . . . .	. . .	1
Delaware Historical Society	1	. . .
Dillon, John A.	2	1
Franklin Fire Insurance Company	1	. . .
Germantown Friend's Free Library . . . . .	. . .	1
Goodson, J. E.	2	. . .
Grady, Mrs. Mary . . . . .	. . .	6
Great Britain, Commissioners of Patents	40	. . .
Hartford College Library . . . . .	. . .	1
Hartford Young Men's Institute . . . . .	. . .	1
Harvard College . . . . .	. . .	1
Helper, H. R. . . . .	. . .	1
Hickey, M.	1	. . .
Indianapolis Public Library	1	. . .
Illinois Industrial University . . . . .	. . .	1

MERCANTILE LIBRARY REPORT.

GIVERS.	VOLS.	PPHS.
Jones, G. I. & Co . . . . .	. . .	. . .
King, Moses	1	. . .
Knox, John J.	1	. . .
Laws, Sam'l S.	1	. . .
Lynch, Thomas	1	. . .
Macdonald, J. M.	1	. . .
McGrath, Mich'l K.	2	1
Meier, John J.	1	. . .
Mellen, J. O.	1	. . .
Milwaukee Public Library . . . . .	. . .	1
Missouri Medical Association	2	. . .
Missouri State Board of Agriculture . . . . .	. . .	1
Missouri State Board of Immigration . . . . .	. . .	1
Missouri State University . . . . .	. . .	3
Morgan, H. H.	1	6
Moritz, Charles	1	. . .
Nagle, John T. . . . .	. . .	1
Nashville Board of Health	1	. . .
Newton Free Library . . . . .	. . .	1
New York Mercantile Library Association . . . . .	. . .	1
New York Produce Exchange	1	. . .
New York State Library	2	. . .
Osterreicher, J.	1	. . .
Paterson, Wm. (Scotland)	1	. . .
Pennsylvania Historical Society	1	. . .
Pittsburgh Library . . . . .	. . .	1
Providence Public Library . . . . .	. . .	1
Ramsey, Chas. G.	3	. . .
Relfe, Wm. S.	1	. . .
Rice, E. C. . . . .	. . .	1
Richmond, Va., Board of Health . . . . .	. . .	1
St. Joseph College of Physicians and Surgeons . . . . .	. . .	. . .
St. Louis Board of Health . . . . .	. . .	12
St. Louis Fair Association . . . . .	. . .	1
St. Louis Merchants' Exchange . . . . .	. . .	1
St. Louis Board of Public Schools	1	. . .
St. Louis Public School Library . . . . .	. . .	8
St. Louis University . . . . .	. . .	1
Sanford, W. W.	1	. . .
San Francisco Mercantile Library . . . . .	. . .	. . .
Scanlan, James J.	8	. . .
Schuyler, Rev. M.	1	. . .
Sharpe, Wm.	2	. . .

GIVERS.	VOLS.	PPHS.
Smithsonian Institute	2	2
Stevens, B. F. (London)	8	1
Stratton, J. C.	1	. . .
Tatham, John (England)	1	. . .
Townsend, T. D.	1	. . .
Tracy, John H.	4	2
Triplett, John R.	1	. . .
United States Agricultural Department	2	. . .
United States Engineers' Department	11	. . .
United States Interior Department	12	. . .
United States Navy Department . . . . .	. . .	9
United States Ordnance Department	3	. . .
United States State Department	3	. . .
United States Treasury Department	7	. . .
United States War Department	1	. . .
Viceroy and Governor-General of India	4	. . .
Washington University . . . . .	. . .	1
Waterhouse, S.	1	. . .
Wilson, Jr., Geo.	1	. . .
Winthrop, John S.	1	. . .
Woodward, Tiernan & Hale . . . . .	. . .	1
Worcester Free Public Library . . . . .	. . .	1
Yale College . . . . .	. . .	3
Yeatman, James A. . . . .	. . .	1

